



AXE FACTS

INFO for Owners of Roland & BOSS Guitar Products Volume 6/ No. 1

New Product News

With one of the largest new product roll-outs in our 20-plus-year history, Roland and BOSS were once again all the buzz at the recent National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) trade show in Los Angeles. In addition to spectacular performances and demonstrations by some of the industry's most talented musicians, the Roland/BOSS exhibit also had some exciting new technology on display. Here's a quick recap of the new guitar products premiered at the show.

VG-88 V-Guitar System

The VG-88 V-Guitar System represents the next step in revolutionary V-Guitar technology.



Using advanced Composite Object Sound Modeling (COSM), this unique system can "model" the most popular guitars and amplifiers in history, and produce some interesting synth-type sounds all its own. New models include hollow-body and acoustic guitars, plus an amazing nylon string guitar. There's also more natural tube and

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Digital Recording for Guitar Players

Many musicians are still undecided about digital recording, particularly guitar players. Even though digital recorders offer countless advantages over analog—like random access, non-destructive editing, Virtual Tracks, and onboard effects processing—to some guitarists, going digital seems complicated and expensive.

For these musicians, making the switch to digital recording will require products that are easier, more powerful, and of course, more



affordable. Well, the time has come, thanks to the BOSS BR-8 Digital Recording Studio. In fact, if you've ever used a four-track, you'll be right at home with this digital dream machine.

A quick look at the compact BR-8 will tell you how simple it is. It looks like a typical four-track, and works like a four-track, with easy tape deck-style buttons, and knobs and faders to control levels.

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photo: Eddie Malluk

5 MINUTES with Amir Derakh

In just over three short years, guitarist Amir Derakh and his band Orgy have taken their distinct brand of futuristic electronic hard rock to the top of charts (their debut, Candyass, was certified Gold) and to hundreds of thousands of fans via MTV and the 1998 "Family Values" tour with labelmates Korn. Now in the studio working on Orgy's sophomore release, guitar visionary and avid Roland guitar synth user Derakh set aside five minutes to chat with Axe Facts.

AxeFacts: You're known as an experimental player with a pretty sophisticated setup. What type of gear are you using these days?

Amir Derakh: Right now, I'm using a Roland GR-30 Guitar Synthesizer on stage and in the studio. Live, I use 100-watt Marshall heads and a Roland Jazz Chorus amp for clean sounds. I also have a Roland JP-8080 Analog Modeling Synth Module, which I've used quite a bit on the new record and incorporated into my live rig. I basically trigger it coming out of the GR-30, so I've got lots of new sounds which I think are really cool.

AF: What was the inspiration to begin using a guitar synth live?

AD: Actually, I've been playing with guitar synths for like 15 years now, and I've always been into synthesizers in general. As far as

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using it live, I'd tried it with lots of other bands in the past, but it didn't seem to really have its place until this one... probably because Orgy is an electronic type of band to start with, so it works.

AF: What do you like about using the guitar synth versus playing a more "traditional" guitar player role?

AD: Basically, I was bored of just playing guitar and writing riffs. I wanted to reinvent. So [guitar synthesis] allows me to exist in a grey area, because I can be like a keyboard player, yet we retain that live rock band energy.

AF: What types of sounds are you using?

AD: I use pads, bass sounds, high-pitched, arpeggiated sounds... but most of the sounds I use, I modify a lot. All the programming and presets in my GR-30 have been changed so much that it's hard to tell what I started with. But generally speaking, I like the combination of my "straight" guitar sound blended with my synth sound, which is really

heavy. I blend the two sounds (amp and synth) together almost all the time. And I have full control. I can switch between everything with the touch of a button.

AF: How do you go about that?

AD: All the blending of sounds happens within the guitar synth programs themselves, because I

"I like the combination of my 'straight' guitar sound blended with my synth sound, which is really heavy."

didn't want to have to use a mixer live. I don't think anyone out there is really running things exactly like I do... so I had to create this setup and program everything as I went along. But now, having everything inside the GR-30 makes things easier.

AF: What advice would you give other guitar synth users on incorporating a GR synth into their live sets?

AD: One thing that I've done is switch to thicker-gauge strings, which seems to help tracking, especially because we tune down. I also lower the neck pickup because if it's too close it can pull the strings or cause mistracking. I'll even try to use guitars without a neck pickup if possible... Then, I arrange sounds into banks related to the songs so I can get to them quickly. Usually, I only use about four different sounds in a song. Because with just one sound, I can make things sound totally different depending on where on the neck I play or what the expression pedal is doing.

AF: How would you describe the new record?

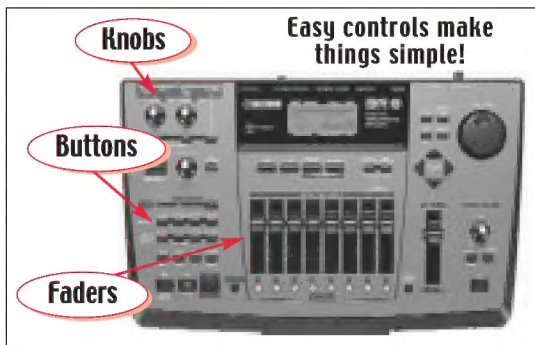
AD: For those who are familiar with Orgy, it's not a departure from our last record so much as it is a progression. It's a bit heavier, but it still sounds like Orgy. We've got about 10 songs mixed and done, so the record will probably be out in July or so.

AF: We'll look for it. Thanks.

But unlike your four-track, the BR-8 includes some very cool digital features, including:

- Eight tracks of digital recording and mixing; 64 Virtual Tracks for storing alternative takes
- Zip@100 drive for recording to convenient, inexpensive 100MB Zip disks
- Scene memory for storing and recalling mixer settings
- Diverse effects including COSM (Composite Object Sound Modeling) guitar and bass amp models
- Onboard Rhythm Guide for playing along to Preset rhythm patterns
- Built-in chromatic tuner and dedicated Hi-Z guitar input
- Phrase Trainer for slowing down music to learn fast guitar licks
- MIDI out and optical digital output

Even better, there's none of the



complicated routing or mixer bussing common to other digital recorders. In fact, the BR-8 doesn't even have a Shift key—just helpful display icons and single-function buttons that make recording a snap. And even though it's really simple, the BR-8 has plenty of advanced features, like Scene memory; Cut, Copy and Paste editing; and 100 Locators. But what if you accidentally erase something? No problem! Just press the BR-8's Undo button and it's back.

For those who want to go even

further into digital recording, Roland offers the VS-840EX. It's like a souped-up BR-8 with a Zip@250 drive for more recording time, plus the ability to record up to four tracks at a time compared to the BR-8's two. The VS-840EX's COSM effects also include Microphone modeling which can make your budget dynamic microphone sound like a high-end condenser.

So to those guitar players who are still on the fence about digital recording, there has never been a better time to go for it. With products like the BOSS BR-8 and Roland VS-840EX, digital recording has never been more easy, affordable, or fun!

overdriven amp sounds, new brass sounds, brand-new effects, an onboard expression pedal and a 1/4-inch direct guitar input for running directly through the COSM amp models and effects with any standard electric guitar pickup.

GR-33 Guitar Synthesizer

With the GR-33, Roland gives guitar players more of what they want in a floor-based guitar synthesizer: better sounds and faster tracking. To this end, the GR-33's sound engine and effects are now based upon Roland's industry-standard JV-1080 synthesizer module, giving this GK-Ready synth 384 sounds of unparalleled quality. Improved tracking speed means the GR-33 can keep up with every note and nuance. And with dedicated Chorus, Reverb and 40 multi-effects—plus an onboard arpeggiator, Synth Harmonist, and assignable expression pedal—the GR-33 is a professional synth all the way.



DB-700 D-Bass Amplifier

The DB-700 D-Bass Amplifier gives bass players more punch per pound, thanks to a 250W amplifier and 15" speaker, high-efficiency horn tweeter and proprietary FFP digital amplifier technology—which makes this lightweight combo amp sound



much bigger than it really is. This high-tech bass amp also uses COSM amp modeling to deliver classic tube, tube overdrive, and solid state tones on par with the finest bass amps around. There's even onboard compression, 3-band EQ, and "D-Chorus" for dialing in just the right tone. Simple knob-based control and digital Preset memories make the DB-700 a great choice for live performance.

JS-5 JamStation

With its high-quality 4-part arrangements, the BOSS JS-5 JamStation is the perfect practice and songwriting partner for guitar and bass players who like to jam. A

TIPS & TRICKS

PS-5 Express Yourself

The BOSS PS-5 is a 24-bit intelligent pitch shifting pedal that delivers some very cool "special effects." For starters, it features very long pre-delay time (100ms), so by connecting an optional expression



pedal like the Roland EV-5, you can reduce the detuning amount to "0", using the PS-5 for slapback echo only. On the other hand, if you're

using the PS-5 for pitch-shifting, the expression pedal can control a range of great realtime pitch-bending effects.

GT-5/3 Silent Tuning

Don't want your audience to hear you tune? No problem.

The BOSS GT-5 and GT-3 assign volume to the onboard expression pedal when you turn on the built-in tuner, so you can tune silently by setting the expression pedal to minimum. The BOSS ME-30 automatically mutes the output when you turn on the tuner. The BOSS TU-2, on the other hand, has two output modes: Mute and Bypass, so you can decide if you want your tuning to be heard or not.

highly addictive machine, the JS-5's 200 Preset songs can be structured to fit user-defined chord progressions with no knowledge of MIDI or sequencing. A separate audio track allows up to 32 minutes of digital audio recording using an optional SmartMedia™ card, while an automatic timestretch feature keeps audio recordings in sync with internal patterns.



TU-70 Guitar & Bass Auto Tuner

The BOSS TU-70 is the world's first compact guitar and bass tuner with a backlit LCD. This affordable tuner's smooth needle movement offers more accurate tuning than anything in its class, while guitar



string and fret icons make operation highly intuitive. An extremely versatile tuner, the TU-70 offers flat and double-flat tuning, plus open D, E, G and A strings. The display can even be changed to accommodate 4-string, 5-string and 6-string basses.

BR-8 Digital Recording Studio

The BR-8 Digital Recording Studio is BOSS' first hard disk recorder designed for guitar players and other musicians seeking an affordable, more professional alternative to tape-based personal studios. With its extremely intuitive design, 8 track/64 Virtual Track recording capabilities, onboard effects—including COSM amp modeling—and built-in Zip®100 drive, the BR-8 has "the perfect personal studio" written all over it.





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photo: Eddie Malluk

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Roland/BOSS New Product Demo Videos!

Want to get the inside scoop on all the new Roland and BOSS products introduced at the 2000 NAMM trade show in Los Angeles? Or maybe you want to learn about BOSS' incredibly simple BR-8

Digital Recording Studio? Then you've got to check out the BOSS BR-8



Demo Video and FREE Roland/BOSS New Product Video.

From the lightning-fast GR-33 Guitar Synthesizer to the all-new VG-88 V-Guitar System, JS-5 JamStation and more, the 2000 RUG New Product Video has it all.

On the other hand, the BR-8 Demo Video will show you why guitar players are flipping out over this affordable 8-track hard disk recorder's ultra-intuitive interface, Virtual Tracks, onboard multi-effects, and guitar-oriented features like a built-in chromatic tuner, Phrase Trainer, and Rhythm Guide.

Order your FREE New Product Video or BR-8 Demo Video (\$5) simply by calling the Roland SuperStore at (800) 386-7575 or by visiting the SuperStore section of the

www.rolandus.com website.

